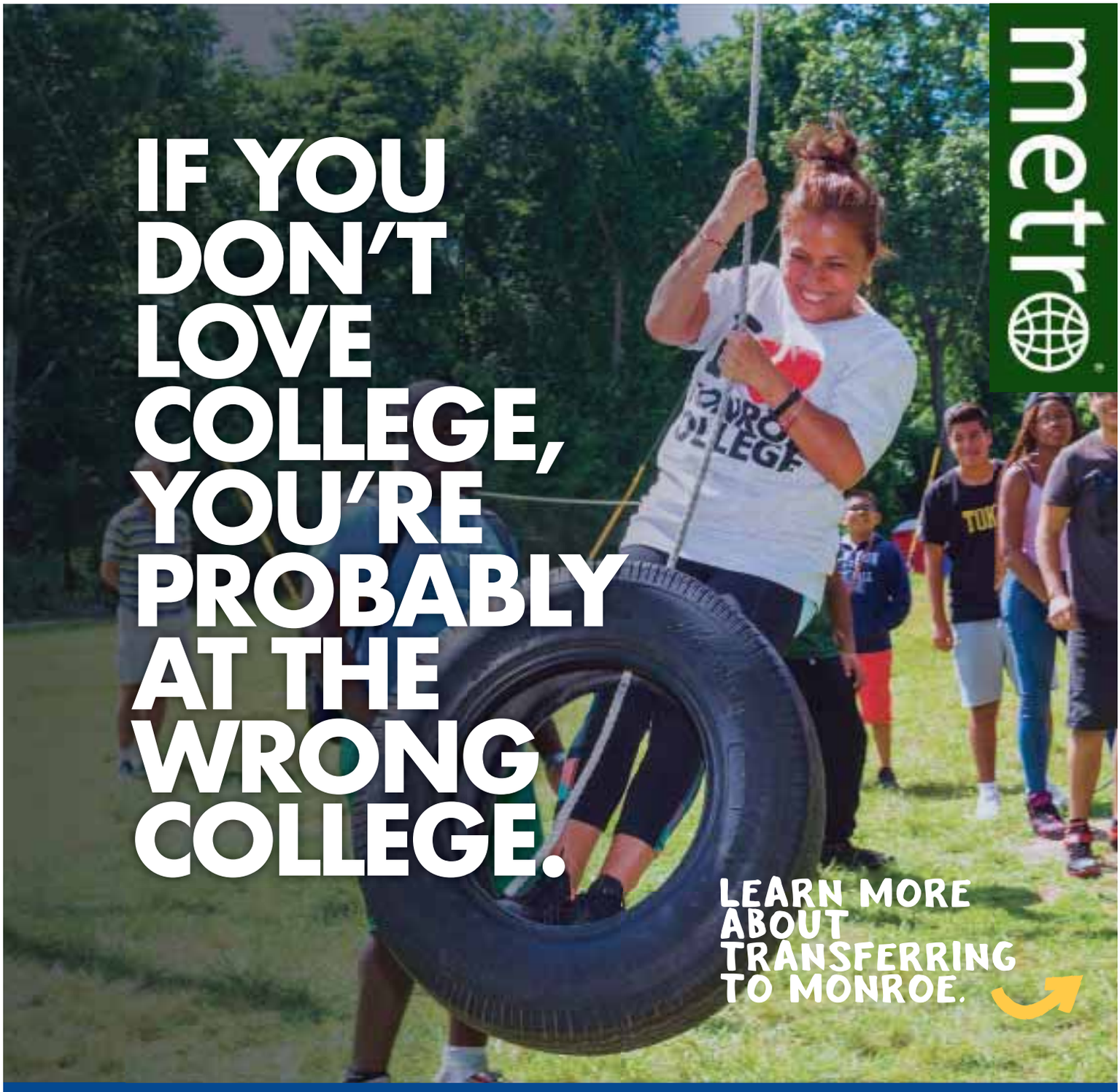

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BROTHERS FRANCO

How the star siblings brought 'The Disaster Artist' to the big screen. 18-19

The end of Ben? 21-22

Celebrities who have filed restraining orders against their exes. 16

HOOD RATS

A new study has pinpointed the difference between uptown and downtown rats. 4

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MORGAN ROUSSEAU, MANAGING EDITOR

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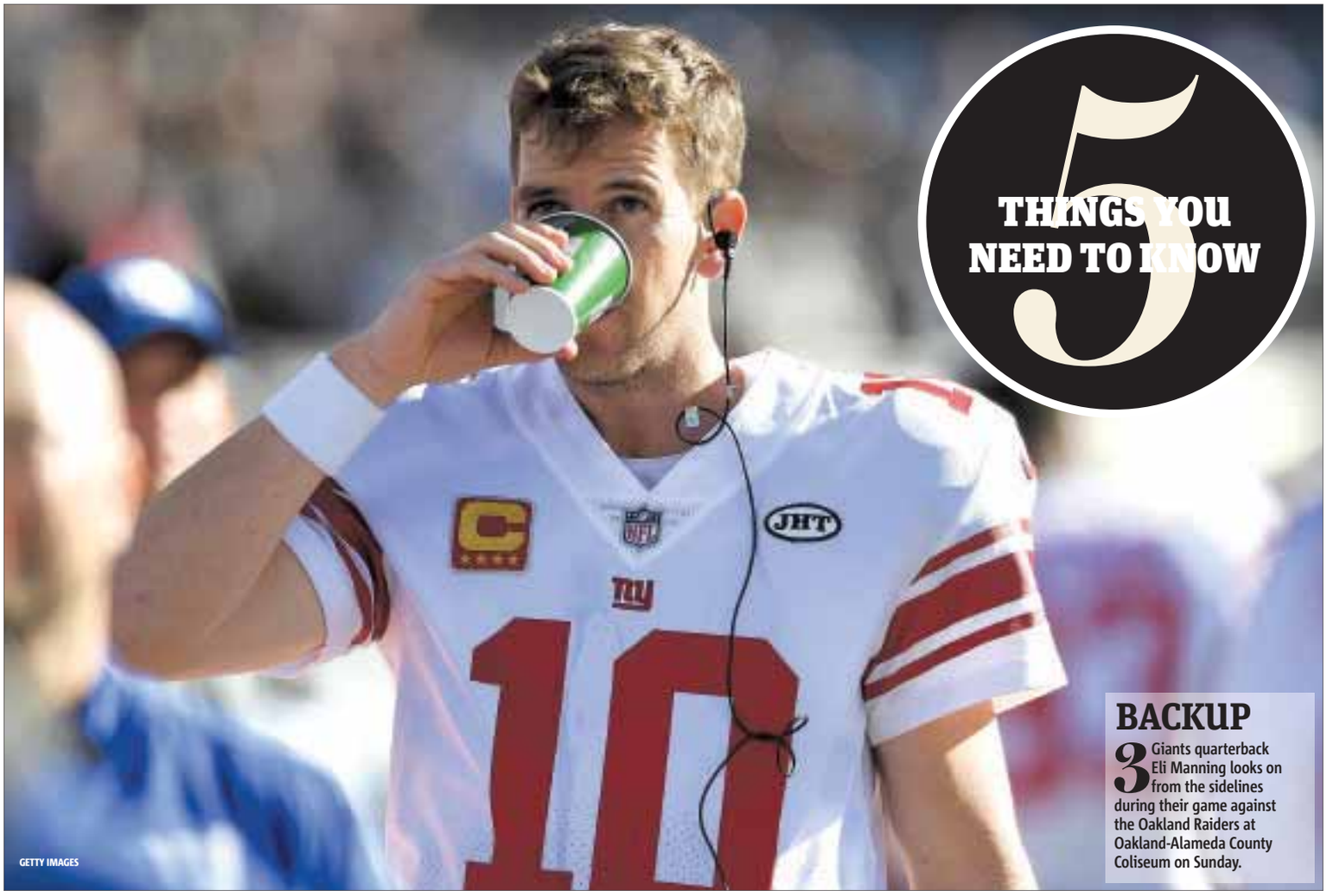
CVS HEALTH TO ACQUIRE AETNA FOR $69 BILLION

1 Drugstore chain operator CVS Health Corp said on Sunday it had agreed to acquire U.S. health insurer Aetna Inc. for $69 billion, seeking to tackle soaring healthcare spending through lower-cost medical services in pharmacies. This year's largest corporate acquisition will combine one of the nation's largest pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) and pharmacy operators with one of its oldest health insurers, whose national business ranges from employer healthcare to government plans. The deal comes after Aetna's $37 billion plan to acquire smaller U.S. health insurance peer Humana Inc. was blocked in January by a U.S. federal judge over antitrust concerns. A proposed combination of peers Anthem Inc and Cigna Corp was also shot down.

'GUILLOTINE' HANGS OVER TILLERSON

2 On the eve of his trip to Europe, Rex Tillerson gave a speech last week that European allies had waited months to hear: an "ironclad" promise of U.S. support to its oldest allies. The relief in European capitals lasted barely a day as reports surfaced of a White House plan to oust the U.S. secretary of state, plunging America's friends back into confusion over President Donald Trump's foreign policy. The uncertainty is particularly acute given Washington's leading role in crises in North Korea and Syria. "Just as Tillerson comes to Brussels to give a public statement of support that the EU and NATO have wanted all along, it seems he has no mandate, that the guillotine is hanging over his head," said an EU official involved in diplomacy with White House officials. "It leaves Europe just as doubtful as before about Trump."



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BACKUP

3 Giants quarterback Eli Manning looks on from the sidelines during their game against the Oakland Raiders at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum on Sunday.

US QUITS ON GLOBAL MIGRATION PACT TALKS

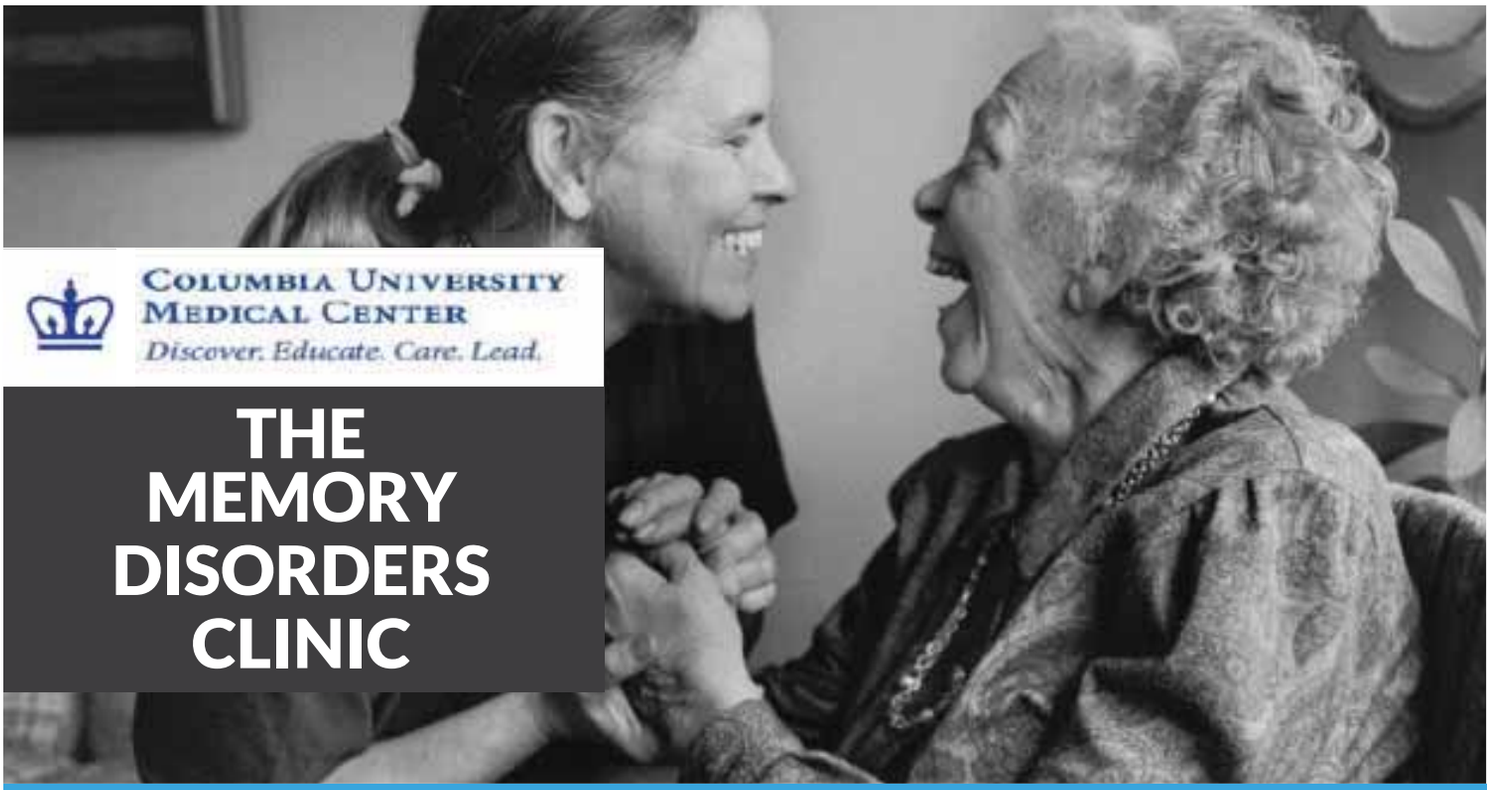
4 The U.S. has quit negotiations on a voluntary pact to deal with migration because the global approach to the issue was "simply not compatible with U.S. sovereignty," said U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley. In a statement the U.S. mission to the U.N. noted that President Trump made the decision. "No country has done more than the United States, and our generosity will continue," said Haley, whose parents are immigrants from India. "But our decisions on immigration policies must always be made by Americans and Americans alone." "We will decide how best to control our borders and who will be allowed to enter our country," she said. Trump campaigned on a promise to deport immigrants and build a wall on the U.S. border with Mexico to help tackle illegal immigration and crime in the U.S.

DISPUTE OVER PARKING SPOT TURNS DEADLY

5 A driver plowed a car into half a dozen people during a fight over a parking spot outside a hookah bar in Jamaica, Queens, in the early hours of Sunday morning, killing one and injuring the others before fleeing, police said. During the dispute, the driver got out of a white Hyundai Sonata and stabbed two people in the torso, the New York Police Department said in a statement. The pair were recovering and in stable condition. The driver then got back in the car and drove onto the sidewalk about half a block away, striking six victims. One of the wounded remained in critical condition, according to police. Police said they later arrested the person they believe to be the driver, who fled the scene, and recovered the car in another part of Queens. The driver has not been publicly identified.

TONY'S METRO MAGIC 2017

As we enter the season of giving, Metro asks that you donate to Tony's Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive to help underprivileged children in your community. You can donate by visiting metro.us/magic, clicking on the toy wish-list link of your choice, and ordering via a secure payment system. Toys will then be distributed to local children in need.



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Uptown and downtown rats in NYC are genetically different, study finds

A Fordham Ph.D. student looked at the genetics of rats all across Manhattan and found clear differences.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
@kristindakota
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

You've heard of uptown girls, but what about uptown rats?

Apparently, rats that live uptown and downtown in New York City have distinct genetic differences, according to a new paper out of Fordham University.

Matthew Combs, a Ph.D. student at Fordham, is writing his dissertation about the ecology and evolution of the urban rat population. His paper, recently accepted for publication, was the result of two years of work trapping and collecting DNA from more than 200 rats all over Manhattan.

It's important to study rats, he said, to learn how humans and the way a city works affects them. Understanding that can lead to better ways to manage their population here.

Combs and his colleagues had three questions they hoped to answer with their research: How far do rats move around the city from where they are born? Do rats in different areas of Manhattan have different genetics? And where did New York's rats come from in the first place?

Even though rats are practically synonymous with New York, they're actually an invasive species. Combs thought that maybe Manhattan's rat population would show rats from all over the world, since the city is a center for immigration and trade.

For his field work, Matthew Combs trapped rats all over Manhattan, taking samples from their tails for genetic testing. GETTY IMAGES

"It turns out, all the rats we sequenced came from Western Europe, descended from a lineage of rats that likely came here when New York was a colony," he said. "Rats first arrived in New York City between 1750 and 1770 … and they've basically stayed with us. As the city spread north, so did they."

But even though all of New York's brown rats are from Western Europe, they show genetic differences in certain parts of the city because small genetic mutations happen with every generation.

"We found that most rats will actually stay within 200 to 400 meters of their colony," Combs said. "Ninety percent of rats really don't move very far from where they were born, usually because that's a great spot with lots of resources, which is why they were born there in the first place."

Combs said that maybe 10 percent of rats venture away from their colony, jumping across a block or through a park. As they move, they bring their genetic information with them, which is how he was able to identify unique rat population "clusters" in different neighborhoods.

Most distinct among those were the uptown and downtown rats.

"To us it was clear that there [were] less rats making the jump generation by generation across Midtown, likely because Midtown has less habitable spaces for rats," Combs said.

For his field work, Combs started in Inwood and basically walked south, looking for signs of burrows. He worked with the city to get trapping permits and set up lethal traps, and he took a small piece of each rat's tail back to the lab to study.

"Rats are not easily seen unless in a subway tunnel and not very much is known about their ecology and biology in cities," Combs said. "Once you know what to look for, though, you definitely see them more often."

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Trump tweets about Russia probe spark warnings from lawmakers

The Russia matter has dogged Trump's first year, and this weekend overshadowed his first legislative win when the Senate approved a tax cuts bill.

A series of tweets by President Donald Trump about the investigation into contacts between his 2016 campaign and Russia prompted concerns on Sunday among both Democratic and Republican lawmakers, with Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham saying Trump could be wading into "peril" by commenting.

"I would just say this with the president: There's an ongoing criminal investigation," Graham said on the CBS program "Face the Nation."

"You tweet and comment regarding ongoing criminal investigations at your own peril," he added.

On Sunday morning, Trump wrote on Twitter that he never asked former FBI Director James Comey to stop investigating Michael Flynn, the president's former national security adviser — a statement at odds with an account Comey has given.

That tweet followed one on Saturday in which Trump said he had fired Flynn because the former national security adviser had lied to the FBI.

Trump's attorney, John Dowd, said in an interview with Reuters that he had drafted the tweet and said putting it together had been a "mistake."

"I'll take responsibility," Dowd said.

The series of tweets came after a dramatic turn of events on Friday in which Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors delving into contacts between Trump's inner circle and Russia.

Legal experts and some Democratic lawmakers said if Trump knew Flynn lied to the FBI and then pressured Comey not to investigate him, that could bolster a charge of obstruction of justice.

"The president knew he [Flynn] had lied to the FBI, which means that when he talked to the FBI director and asked him effectively drop this case, he knew that Flynn had committed a federal crime," Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, told the ABC program "This Week."

Flynn was the first member of Trump's administration to plead guilty to a crime uncovered by special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian attempts to influence the 2016 U.S. election and potential collusion by Trump aides. REUTERS

The Russia investigation has moved closer to Trump's White House with a guilty plea from former adviser Michael Flynn. GETTY IMAGES

TAXES

McConnell optimistic of tax bill deal between Senate and House

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said on Sunday that he is optimistic the Senate and House of Representatives will reach a conference agreement on tax legislation that can be signed into law by President Donald Trump.

"We'll be able to get to an agreement in the conference. I'm very optimistic about it," McConnell told ABC's "This Week."

The U.S. Senate had narrowly approved a tax overhaul on Saturday, moving Republicans and President Trump a big step closer to their goal of slashing taxes for businesses and the rich while offering everyday Americans a mixed bag of changes.

In what would be the largest change to U.S. tax laws since the 1980s, Republicans want to add $1.4 trillion over 10 years to the $20 trillion national debt to finance changes that they say would further boost an already growing economy.

Once the Senate and House of Representatives reconcile their respective versions of the legislation, Trump said, the resulting bill could cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent "to 20 [percent]. It could be 22 [percent] when it comes out. It could also be 20 [percent]."

"The Republicans have managed to take a bad bill and make it worse," said Sen. Chuck Schumer. "Under the cover of darkness and with the aid of haste, a flurry of last-minute changes will stuff even more money into the pockets of the wealthy and the biggest corporations." REUTERS

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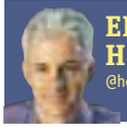
THE DEGENERATE OR THE DEMOCRAT, ALABAMA DECIDES

Some polls show Roy Moore leading in his race to become U.S. senator from Alabama. GETTY IMAGES

ANALYSIS



ELLIS HENICAN
@henican

The chickens are coming home to Roy.

Donald Trump, Mitch McConnell, the God-fearing folks of white Alabama — last month, these brave souls were threatening to draw the line at child molesting, ready to abandon serial teen-dater Roy Moore in next week's special election for a U.S. Senate seat.

Well, that bold moment has passed.

Republican leaders from Washington to Montgomery are hurriedly choosing the alleged cradle-robber over a candidate with an even darker title next to his name: Democrat Doug Jones.

Someone should put that on a bumper if it isn't there already: I'm for the perv, not the Democrat.

Matt Lauer probably wishes he'd been broadcasting from Birmingham. While the rest of America is obsessing over sexual misconduct, Alabama's new state slogan should probably be, "Aw, cut him some slack, won't ya?"

The polling is a little thin, but it's pointing more and more toward Moore: Emerson College has the Seven or Eight Commandments judge (there are a few he doesn't follow) up by six points. JMC has Moore up by five points. Only the Washington Post, whose interviews with Moore's accusers got the whole thing started, has Jones ahead, 50 to 47 percent, though it must be said that some Alabamians may not be eager to talk with strangers about such things. And here's an even dicier number: CBS found that 71 percent of Alabama Republicans don't believe Moore's many accusers are telling the truth.

Echoing his id, Steve Bannon, Trump has spent the past week defending the May-December candidate, noting that Moore "denies everything." If only someone had told Hillary: That's all it takes to get Donald off your back!

On Sunday, it was McConnell's turn to display moral clarity. In mid-November, the Republican Senate leader was calling Moore's accusers credible and demanding Moore "step aside." McConnell even suggested that Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a former Alabama senator, might considering jumping in.

No more. "I'm gonna let the people of Alabama make the call," McConnell told ABC's "This Week." He wasn't alone in the dodge.

Of the more than 30 other Republicans who spoke out against Moore, hardly any of them are doing anything to stop him now.

Metro columnist Ellis Henican is the best-selling author of a dozen books, including "TRUMPITUDE: The Secret Confessions of Donald's Brain." trumpitude.us.

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Baby Boomers Benefitting From Knee Arthritis Tr

How Cutting-Edge Treatment And The NYC Pain MD "X" Factors Are Helping K

New York City - Nothing is more true. A life with constant pain is not a life worth living. And if you can't stay active and do all the things you love - like walking, playing golf, tennis, vacationing etc. It's not really a life at all.

...the Pain Is More Like A Prison

And for generations, knee arthritis has given good, hard working people a life sentence of pain and suffering. To make things worse, slick marketers only add to the pain by promising wonder cures. Late night television and your mail box are filled with "wonder arthritis cures" that make wild claims and sound too good to be true . . . ***Because They Are***

Nothing is worse than getting your hopes up - spending your hard earned money - only to be let down time after time.

It is easy to give up...

But while marketers were peddling "wonder cures," real doctors and researchers were hard at work trying to discover a real medical solution. Modern medicine eradicated small pox and polio. Through laser eye surgery, doctors can give almost blind people perfect 20/20 vision. The potential cures on the horizon with breakthroughs like stem cell and regenerative therapies are endless.

Solve The Riddle Of Arthritis Pain?

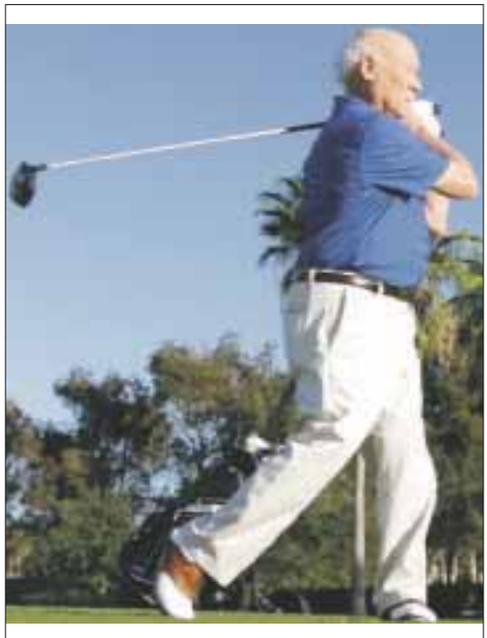
For the past 3 years, that's exactly what a medical clinic in New York City has been doing. The ***NYC Pain MD*** doctors have been able to help thousands of knee arthritis sufferers with cutting-edge treatments and technology older generations could only dream about. One of these treatments in particular has helped thousands of patents ease or eliminate pain and go back to doing their favorite activities like: walking, playing golf, tennis and many more. The treatment is called viscosupplementation. *But wait.* This is NOT the typical viscosupplementation. So if you are one of the many knee arthritis sufferers who already had viscosupplementation and did not get great results - what you are about to discover should be very important. to you in particular. It might even get you out of pain.

Here is why: During viscosupplementation, a special lubricating gel is put directly into your arthritic knee joint. This not only helps the knee joint to glide more smoothly, it acts as a cushion, protects the joint. and relieves a lot of pain. This is often referred to as "joint oil." In many cases, when done properly, this can dramatically lessen knee pain for up to 6 months and much longer in many cases.

And even better - if this treatment works for you the first time - it can be safely repeated when necessary and the results are often better for some.

Like Threading A Needle?

The key to this treatment being successful is actually getting the special lubricating gel directly into the joint where it can go to work. That's why the doctors at ***NYC Pain MD*** use very advanced digital imaging that allows them to see directly into the joint and make sure the lubricating gel "hits the spot" and the treatment has the best odds for success. Studies show that doctors doing these types of procedures without this special imaging actually miss the joint space up to one third of the time!



"I've had trouble with my knee walking. I'm a golfer and want to play golf but I couldn't. I made the call and went and it's the best thing I ever did. It's just – now I can play golf, I can walk, I can climb stairs, I can do things I did many years ago".

"It's the smartest thing ever did" "Since I've been going for the treatment for my knees I don't' take any pills, I take not over the counter medication.."

"This a good alternative to surgery." "I am so glad I went. I'm so confident I feel so good about it and I recommend It to everybody." William La Spina . Golf Enthusiast

(While ***NYC Pain MD*** cannot say all patients will respond like this we can say they are possible. Every patient is individual and results will vary. patient to patient.)

Why Treatment Can Fail

This is why viscosupplmentation can fail for some people. It is also why many knee arthritis sufferers come to ***NYC Pain MD*** after failed treatments elsewhere... and are finally able to get relief. It is not uncommon for patients to travel hours for the advanced treatments given at ***NYC Pain MD***.

Patients Should Be Assured About Precision Treatments

ONE BIG MISTAKE we have heard about is to use digital imaging or ultra-sound to mark the knee and then shut off the imagining and then not use it during the treatment procedure.!!! **This means the doctor did not actually see if the lubricating gel went exactly where it was intended.** The only way to know for sure if the procedure was as accurate as possible - and the lubricating gel went precisely into the joint space - is to use the digital imaging **during the entire procedure.** *You can actually see the lubricating gel as it goes where it is needed.* **If you did not actually see it on the imaging screen - you do not know for sure if you actually got the proper treatment applied to the damaged area.**

If you have already had this procedure without this advanced imaging... Or if it was no used throughtout the procedure, there is a good chance you did not get the maximum results you could and should have received.

"Clearly, technology is only as good as doctors using it ... and clearly experience matters"

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Who Is This Treatment For?

This treatment is not for everyone. But it is for a lot of people who suffer with knee arthritis. Especially if you would like to avoid total knee replacement surgery and possible lessen or eliminate your pain. This treatment

reatments Their Parents Could Only Dream About

nee Arthritis Sufferers Throughout The Tri-State Area Get Back On Their Feet

may help you if you have knee pain due to arthritis. It may also help you if you do not have dramatic signs of arthritis on x-ray. Studies show that arthritis is present long before it can be seen on x-ray. In fact, the sooner you start this treatment the better. So, if you have knee pain - seeing one of the specially trained medical doctors at ***NYC Pain MD*** could be the answer you are looking for. **This is important - this is especially for you if you have had viscosupplmentation in the past without good results.**

Many patients who did not have good results elsewhere are often able to get a very favorable results because of the advance technology and procedure experience at ***NYC Pain MD***

In fact some patients have decided to cancel knee surgery and others go back to a active life-style they had before it was stolen by all the pain.

How to Find Out If They Experts At *NYC Pain MD* Can Help You

If you have knee arthritis pain and would like to see if this treatment might help you - the experts at ***NYC Pain MD*** offer a complimentary screening appointment.

This screening will help determine if you are a candidate for treatment and also gives you a chance to get your questions answered.

If you are a candidate, you will leave knowing that you found the possible way to lessen or even eliminate your knee pain for 6 months or more for many patients.

There is no obligation and if you are not a candidate - the doctor will help you find the best doctors and treatments for your individual case and refer you to the proper sources.To set up a complimentary screening, just call 800-298-8610

The *NYC Pain MD* 'X" Factor ?

... Reduced Cost, Time And Stress

NYC Pain MD is a high-tech medical facility equipped with all the necessary equipment to treat appropriate candidates right in it's own in-office procedure suites. What does this mean for you? It means no stressful hospital, no intimidating surgical center or out patient facility visits. Your experience is far more relaxing with personalized attention. This also means you don't have to be "Rich and Famous" because by avoiding all those "fancy' facilities you don't have to bear their severe costs which can be several times the cost of the treatments themselves.

The Secret To Knee Pain Relief? With advances in medial science and technology the doctors at ***NYC Pain MD*** have been able to help thousands relieve their pain and get their active lifestyle back.

How To Get A No-Cost Screening & Find Out If This Knee Arthritis Treatment Is For You

The popularity of this treatment is startling. ***NYC Pain MD*** receives hundreds of patients calls weekly… patients looking for options other than surgery that really work. But because this is a real medical treatment - it is not for everyone. That's why the experts have setup an easy screening visit.. This screening will help determine if you are a candidate for additional examination and treatment. This screening is offered at no cost to the patient. All your questions answered and you will find out if this treatment is for you .Zero risk or obligation. Just call 800-298-8610 Tell them, "I would like the knee screening." They will take care of everything. Due to demand, spots are limited - call immediately to avoid unnecessary waiting. The number to call is: 800-298-8610

The secret to success: T*echnology with Caring Doctors:* *NYC Pain MD combines cutting edge technology with highly trained professional and caring staff to help knee arthritis sufferers.*

To set up a complimentary screening, just call 800-298-8610. But if you want a screening, we recommend calling right now. Due to time limitations, the center can only offer a limited number of screening per month. They decided to limit the number because they believe in the giving every patient the individual time they deserve.

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This is Jersey City's most expensive rental listing ever

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NIKKI M. MASCALI
@NikkiMMascali
nikki.mascali@metro.us

A new luxury rental just hit the market with a $10,995 monthly price tag, and — surprise! — it's not in one of New York City's five boroughs. Meet Penthouse Five at The Ellipse in the Newport section of Jersey City.

Penthouse Five officially hit the market on Thursday and became the most-expensive rental listing in Jersey City's history. It's housed in the newly opened Ellipse, a 41-story luxury tower built by LeFrak, the same developer who counts LeFrak City in Queens among its residential and commercial properties.

The 2,300-square-foot penthouse has four bedrooms, four bathrooms, a private terrace and offers breathtaking views of New York City across the Hudson River.

The Ellipse has four other penthouses — one four-bedroom and three three-bedroom units — that are also new to the market.

A 24-hour doorman, large outdoor pool, multi-use lounge, game room, fitness center, children's playroom, co-working space and free Wi-Fi are among The Ellipse's amenities.

Each of the building's 381 apartments feature floor-to-ceiling windows, stainless steel appliances, hardwood oak floors, en-suite washer and dryers, dual-toned modern carpentry and white quartz surfaces.

The Ellipse, which is minutes away from the Newport and Hoboken PATH stations, opened in September after nearly two years of construction, and it is currently more than 80 percent leased.

Rents range from $2,573 for a studio to Penthouse Five's $10,995 price tag. The other penthouses range from $6,250 to $9,495.

Visit ellipsejc.com for more info.

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— Chelle

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The Ellipse opened in September after nearly two years of construction. ALL IMAGES LEFRAK

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NYC Council bans conversion therapy

The practice of trying to turn a gay person straight will be barred in New York City under this bill.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
@kristindakota
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

The 2016 New York City Gay Pride Parade GETTY IMAGES

A bill that prohibits conversion therapy, a practice which aims to turn gay people straight, was passed by the New York City Council on Thursday.

Sponsored by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, the bill will ban anyone from charging somebody for a service that intends to change their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Our great country is land of the free meaning ALL individuals should be able to live without fear of coercion into change into someone they are not," Mark-Viverito said in a statement. "Conversion therapy is barbaric and inhumane, and right here in New York City, we will continue to be the model for acceptance across the nation as we ban conversion therapy."

This bill goes further than some other conversion therapy bans that have been instituted across the country. Such bans often only prohibit the practice on minors, while this ban extends to adults as well.

The city council passed the bill 43 to 2, with one abstention. If de Blasio signs the bill, the law will go into effect in 120 days.

Upon hearing the news, some people celebrated online by showing their support for the move and tweeting with the hashtag #BornPerfect, which is the name of a campaign to end conversion therapy that was launched in 2014.

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WHY THE TRIBORO X RAIL MAY NEVER LEAVE THE STATION

LARRY PENNER
Analysis
Larry Penner is a transportation historian and advocate who previously worked 31 years for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

In 2012, Manhattan Borough President and future 2013 Democratic Party primary NYC Comptroller candidate Scott Stringer called for the construction of a new Triboro X subway line. This would connect Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. It made a great sound bite at the time and got Stringer some free publicity. But you have to ask five years later, just what has he done to follow up?

As always, the devil is in the details. Stringer said that this would be his No. 1 transportation priority if elected NYC comptroller. I have seen no evidence that Stringer, since January 2014 as NYC comptroller, continued to advocate the new Triboro X line as his No. 1 transportation priority since assuming office when speaking to voters around town.

The proposed revised Triboro X route starting from Co-Op City in the Bronx connecting with Queens and terminating in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, will traverse dozens of neighborhoods impacting several hundred thousand people living nearby. There are serious legal and operational issues to be resolved with the Federal Rail Road Administration. They have regulatory jurisdiction over significant portions of the proposed route, which would run adjacent to existing active freight tracks.

History has told us that construction of most major new transportation system expansion projects have taken decades. There is the completion of feasibility studies, environmental reviews, planning, design, engineering, real estate acquisition, budgeting, identifying and securing funding to pay for all of the above before construction can start.

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It's Tony's Metro Magic time! Please donate to our 8th annual toy drive

As we enter the season of giving, Metro asks that you donate to Tony's Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive during the 2017 season to help underprivileged children in your community.

This year marks the eighth anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-serving editor-in-chief. Mr. Metcalf oversaw the project for more than four years before passing away in 2013.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts, and it's our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help others and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro's Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen.

This year marks the eighth anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-serving editor-in-chief. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro has created a wish list that readers can access by going to the links listed at Metro.us. Gifts range from under $5 and up.

Toys are delivered to our Metro offices in New York, Boston and Philadelphia through late December, then distributed to local charities that serve underprivileged children in those cities. For those donating in New York, toys will go directly to the Coalition for the Homeless, then distributed to local children. Boston's Heading Home Inc. will receive the toys for that city, and Philadelphia's toys will go to the Institute for the Development of African-American Youth (IDAAY).

If you wish to donate, you can choose the toys, pay online using a secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be automatically delivered.

Metro thanks readers in advance for remembering the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have presents to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a little one's holiday season.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU

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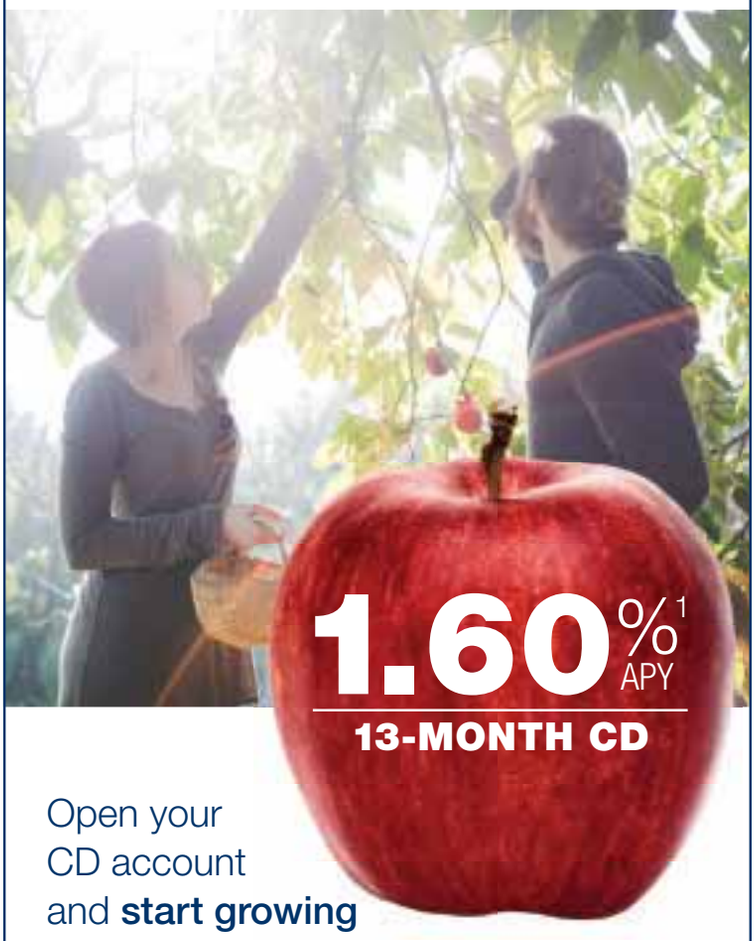

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ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Celebrities who have filed *restraining orders* against their *exes*

Last month, news broke that "Dreamgirls" star Jennifer Hudson had filed a restraining order against former fiancé David Otunga, citing aggressive, threatening and harassing behavior. The couple had been together for about a decade. Unfortunately, this narrative is all too familiar. Here are 11 other famous women who have filed restraining orders against boyfriends, husbands and exes. **METRO**

Halle Berry filed a restraining order against former partner Gabriel Aubry after he got into a fist-fight with her then-partner Olivier Martinez.

"Why Did I Get Married?" actress **Tasha Smith** filed a restraining order against her husband, Keith Douglas, during their divorce proceedings.

After divorcing Jack White, British singer-songwriter and model **Karen Elson** filed a restraining order against him. White had reportedly started sending Elson threatening texts and emails regarding custody arrangements.

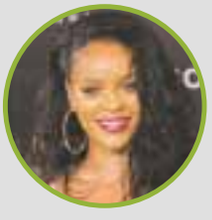
"Real Housewives of Orange County" star **Tamra Barney** filed a restraining order against her then-husband, Simon Barney, with accusations of domestic abuse.

During a whirlwind divorce and custody battle, "Gossip Girl" actress **Kelly Rutherford** filed a restraining against her now ex-husband, German businessman Daniel Giersch.

Supermodel **Christie Brinkley** filed a restraining order against her husband of 12 years, Peter Cook, during their divorce proceedings.

During divorce proceedings from Charlie Sheen, **Denise Richards** requested a restraining order after Sheen allegedly made death threats against her.

Brooke Mueller filed a restraining order against Charlie Sheen as well, revealing in the filing that Sheen had allegedly held a knife to her throat after an argument.



After a very public incident of physical abuse, **Rihanna** filed a restraining order against then-boyfriend, Chris Brown.

After breaking up with fellow actor Matt Prokop, "Modern Family" actress **Sarah Hyland** filed a restraining order against him, claiming that he was harassing her and sending her threatening texts.

Amber Heard filed a restraining order against Johnny Depp alleging domestic violence in 2016 after filing for divorce.

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Mo' money, mo' problems

Lyriq Bent isn't afraid of the truth. Here, the "She's Gotta Have It" actor talks gentrification, Spike Lee and why money can't fix racial inequality.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
letters@metro.us

When Spike Lee's debut feature "She's Gotta Have It" came out in 1986, Lyriq Bent was 7 years old. And the 38-year-old actor didn't see it until he got the job co-starring in Lee's updated TV version.

In the 2017 "She's Gotta Have It," which premiered on Netflix last month, we get updated versions of all the old characters, first and foremost hero Nola Darling (DeWanda Wise), a free-spirited young Fort Greene resident currently dating three men. One of them is Bent's Jamie Overstreet, her richest and most chivalrous beau — a successful businessman with a family who learns that his upscale life in Brooklyn Heights doesn't protect him from the world's ills.

We chatted with the Toronto native about gentrification, the checks and balances of being black in America and the truth about Spike Lee.

Watching the original "She's Gotta Have It," from 1986, and the new show must be surprising. You see how much Brooklyn has changed, but we're still talking about many of the same issues.

A lot of it is still taboo, a lot of it is still relevant. You see how little has moved forward. We have to ask ourselves why there's been so little movement.

One of the main ideas on the show is gentrification, but you see how older residents try to make it work with their newer, richer and often whiter neighbors.

It takes an actual community — the whole village mentality. We're still not there yet, where communities can band together to create real change. We're still waiting for congressmen and –women to do these things for us. But politically it's not in their interest in some cases. So we're constantly left in a state of despair, thinking, 'When are we going to be thrown a bone?' These days someone's not going to ride in on that white horse and save us from our problems. We still need to come together as a community.

Jamie is the richest of the characters, and it seems like he assumed being wealthy would inculcate him from racial problems.

Money doesn't fix your problems, especially when they're racial issues. Jamie has to realize that he needs to fix himself, so that he's thinking properly, so that he's woke, so he's not asleep, thinking that money makes him better than the next person beside him. Because it doesn't.

Spike Lee is a very opinionated person, but he's also very open to others' voices. He could have portrayed Jamie as evil, but he clearly has a lot of empathy for his plight.

Spike is a person who's feared by many in our industry, because they think he's "opinionated" or "strong-willed." I disagree with all of that. I think the man is very honest with who he is and what he sees around him and what is happening.

There are people who don't want to lose the control or the power or the money, whatever it is they're fighting for. They're living a lie because they're getting by; they're living life and making money, so don't shake the tree. And Spike's not that dude.

I like folks like that. I like people who have their own opinions, have their own minds and are willing to say, "I'd rather die free than live as a slave."

In this year's updated version of "She's Gotta Have It," Bent plays Jamie Overstreet, the richest — and most complicated — of Nola Darling's suitors. NETFLIX

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The highly favored brothers Franco

How the star siblings brought "The Disaster Artist" to the big screen.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
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James and Dave star as Tommy Wiseau and Greg Sistero, respectively, in the comedy-drama. A24

Actors James and Dave Franco feel very lucky to have made "The Disaster Artist." Especially because they did so alongside their closest friends — not to mention family. Lest we forget, they are brothers too.

"It was surreal in a sense because we felt like we got away with murder just by being allowed to make this movie," Dave, 32, explains over the phone. "Most people in the world haven't heard of 'The Room.'

"At one point, someone on set tapped me, and said, 'You realize you are making a movie with your brother and your wife and some of your best friends?' It was one of those moments where I took a step back and realized this was a special scenario."

GETTY IMAGES

The brothers Franco star in the film, an adaptation of Greg Sestero's memoir on the making of Tommy Wiseau's bizarre "The Room" — James as Wiseau, and Dave as Sestero himself. And although James recalls his first introduction to the film was quite, well, bizarre (courtesy of a billboard Wiseau paid to keep up between 2003 and 2008), it eventually piqued his interest when he read "The Disaster Artist."

"Someone said, 'This looks like something you'd like.' It was an incredible story of oddballs and outsiders. I was very moved. I could relate."

And while the 39-year-old is the first to admit that "The Room" is technically a bad film, he insists that the sense of joy it provides to its audience shouldn't be dismissed.

"One of the things we examine in our movie is 'The Room,' by most standards would be considered a bad movie," James says. "But the sum of its parts and the sum of the experience is something that people are obviously getting something from. It makes you sort of question what we call a successful movie."

"We have both seen 'The Room' more times than any other movie in existence," Dave adds. "And there is something to be said about that. If a movie is that watchable, when can we just start calling it a good movie?"

"The Disaster Artist" is certainly just that, and audiences will be able to revel in its quality when it is released in New York on Dec. 1, before it extends across the rest of the country Dec. 8.

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PAT KING
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People generally wind up falling into the same disappointing career arcs over and over again. By no fault of their own, of course. But it usually goes a little something like this: You (hopefully) graduate from the school of your dreams only to find out you can't simply rest on your degree in order to land an amazing career. You have to sweat it out for years at internships or entry-level positions in order to climb the corporate ladder. But what happens when you never reach those professional expectations even though you have been playing by the rules? Well, you might not be playing the same game as everyone else.

The career-focused start-up Zippia is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a way that is "money-balling" the job market. By extracting data from over 8 million resumes as well as information pulled from government searches and surveys, they create comprehensive reports showing all of the outside factors that can affect your chances of getting a specific position in all of the different parts of the country.

Their site also allows you to input your own specific preferences for things that you are looking for in a job in order to whittle the options in your area based on what you input. And when I say "specific," that's exactly what they mean. You can choose such pinpointed searches as "working outside" or "how long will I have to be standing?" in order to thin out available positions close by that meet your standards.

Once you have submitted your criteria and experience level, Zippia generates a career track showing you how long it will take for you to land your dream job. Let's say you just left college and you studied, ahem, "journalism." The chart they will generate for you will show you possible entry-level careers like "staff writer" or "editorial assistant" and then how much experience it will take to be hired or promoted to a "communications director" or "senior editor."

David Luther, a content marketing editor at Zippia, believes using the AI generated reports can help someone make realistic choices while trying to enter the workforce after college. Just think of it as your robot guidance counselor.

"Our main goal is to get you on the right track." he explains, "If you've got five years of work experience and you're coming from a top-tier school the positions available to you are going to be slightly different than if you are fresh out of college with no internships or experience and you're set on getting a job in New York City."

By using Zippia's AI to hack the job market, you can be as informed as possible on what's available after earning your degree. "If nothing else," Luther explains, "it will give you exactly what you need to know about the career path you are choosing."

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The uphill climb for nonprofits

Why do nonprofits have such a difficult time reaching their benchmarks year after year? ISTOCK

Compassion is something that should be worn proudly like a badge. With so many in the world in desperate need of relief, any donations or acts of charitable kindness can't be underestimated or devalued. But what happens when charities and nonprofits cannot properly deliver on their proposals after receiving donations from good-hearted strangers?

Philanthropy and nonprofit strategy experts William F. Meehan III and Kim Starkey Jonker, co-authors of the new book "Engine of Impact: Essentials of Strategic Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector," have performed extensive research into how nonprofits can better allocate their funds to be more effective.

In their research, conducted in collaboration with the Center for Social Innovation at Stanford Graduate School of Business, the Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, Stanford Social InnovationReview,GuideStar, and BoardSource, they found that "80 percent of nonprofits struggle with leadership and management" while only "11 percent are ready to scale for impact."

With many donations being submitted in response to natural disaster relief and humanitarian crises all over the globe, why do nonprofits have such a hard time meeting their goals?

"The current situation in nonprofits has been called the 'starvation cycle'," explains Meehan. "The reason is that foundations, and even individuals, very often give a grant for a specific program for one year without covering for all of overhead. That means you're always begging for money and you're never quite getting there."

With helpful government grants being difficult to come by, this current model puts the pressure on nonprofits to budget their funds wisely. But when the focus goes from solving the world's problems to paying overhead costs year after year, that's where the problems start.

"In the introduction (of the book) we cite the results of a very sophisticated model we built which says that U.S. philanthropy this year is about $400 billion. Maybe a third goes to churches," says Meehan. "In 2025, it's going to be close to $600 billion and that's going to be $1 to 300 billion short of what the nonprofits need to do what they're doing." Meehan and Jonker cite in their book seven factors that nonprofits need to perform against to "earn the right to more philanthropy" from the public and stay on the right track.

So, how can you be sure your donations are being used to the full extent by these nonprofits? According to Jonker, it's as simple as taking the time to do your research. "People will respond to a request from a development official or a friend rather than doing the actual research they need to do to look at organizations and say 'which one is the highest performing nonprofit out there?'"

In fact, research shows less than 10 percent of donors do their research before donating to nonprofit organizations, while the other 90 percent may give to nonprofit organizations that have the most visible presences. So do your research!

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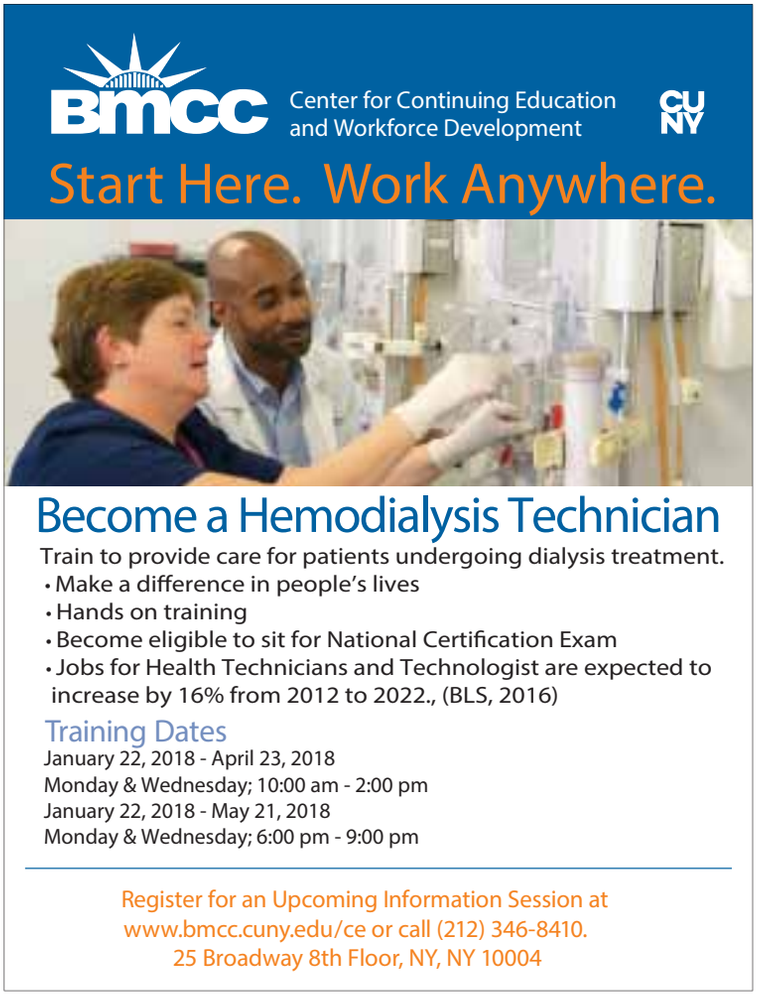
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No Eli, same bad result for G-Men

Geno Smith-led Giants drop their 10th game this season in sloppy effort vs. Raiders.

JOE PANTORNO
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The last time Eli Manning did not start a game under center for the New York Giants, Kurt Warner fell to the Arizona Cardinals, 17-14, in Week 10 of the 2004 season.

Fast-forward 210 games and 13 years later, Geno Smith — who had the unfortunate responsibility of being the first quarterback not named Manning to start since then — and the Giants dropped a 24-17 decision to the Oakland Raiders on Sunday evening.

FINAL 12/4	
NYG	17
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Smith's debut as Giants starter was not a smooth one, which will only further inflame the ill feelings around the organization since the unceremonious benching of Manning on Tuesday.

The former Jets passer completed 21-of-34 passes for 212 yards, one touchdown and two fumbles lost.

Had the Raiders (6-6) offense been clicking at a level it was at last year, the scoreboard would not have been so kind to New York.

The Giants (2-10) offense looked exactly how you would expect it to without Manning. On their first three possessions, the Giants went three-and-out three times.

In the meantime, the Raiders smacked the Giants to start as Marshawn Lynch broke open a 51-yard touchdown run on Oakland's opening drive to put the hosts in front.

Geno Smith turned the ball over twice in Raiders territory during the Giants' 24-17 loss against the Raiders. GETTY IMAGES

Lynch would go for 101 yards on the day on just 17 carries.

Rather inexplicably, the Giants managed to answer as an Orleans Darkwa one-yard touchdown capped off an 11-play, 74-yard drive at the end of the first.

In his first 15 minutes as New York's starter, Smith completed 6-of-10 passes for 63 yards.

But those good times ended rather quickly as he fumbled the ball away twice in Oakland territory to stomp out any hope of the Giants adding points.

The second giveaway came with 42 seconds left in the half on Oakland's four-yard-line when he was sacked and stripped by Khalil Mack that preserved a Raiders 10-7 lead going into halftime.

It was Smith's 19th lost fumble in 31 career starts.

With any sort of momentum eliminated by Smith's fumbles, the Giants offense descended back into ineptitude. Oakland's offense, however, couldn't get a thing going themselves as neither team could score a single point in the third quarter.

The Raiders finally found their footing in the fourth when DeAndre Washington punched in an 8-yard score to establish some breathing room with 10:18 to go.

It was much needed considering Smith came alive on the ensuing drive, going 88 yards in nine plays to hit rookie tight end Evan Engram for a 10-yard score to make it a three-point game again with 5:22 to go.

But the Raiders reopened the 10-point advantage 1:59 later when quarterback David Carr hit Johnny Holton for a 9-yard touchdown pass to put the game away.

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McAdoo could be fired today

The Giants head coach may get his pink slip within the next day.

JOE PANTORNO
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New York Giants head coach Ben McAdoo is on thin ice and might not make it through Monday. GETTY IMAGES

The rumor mill around the New York Giants keeps turning into Sunday and two of the most controversial figures within the organization, head coach Ben McAdoo and general manager Jerry Reese are right at the epicenter.

ESPN's Adam Schefter reported on Sunday morning that McAdoo could be fired within the next 24 hours after the Giants' Week 13 loss to the Oakland Raiders.

He also added that general manager Jerry Reese's status "is highly tenuous."

Their prospective removals have picked up major momentum ever since the surprise benching of Eli Manning, which was announced on Tuesday. Sunday afternoon saw the Giants start a game without Manning under center for the first time since 2004, a 210-game streak that was second-longest in NFL history.

The process of benching Manning was a sloppy affair, one that co-owner John Mara admitted could have done in better taste considering Manning has won the franchise a pair of Super Bowls over his Hall-of-Fame-worthy career.

However, Manning's benching was just one of a few egregious made by McAdoo and Reese over the past year.

While the Giants put together a collection of offensive playmakers, Reese basically ignored the fact that his offensive line was lacking, making no major changes between the 2016 and 2017 seasons. It resulted in Manning constantly being put under pressure and hit while the run game has struggled to find any kind of consistency.

Regardless, McAdoo has done little to get anything out of his roster, which has looked unmotivated and despondent at times. He has suspended Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and Janoris Jenkins throughout the season and has been defiant towards the New York media.

A season after making the playoffs and compiling an 11-5 record, the Giants are now 2-10 after a 24-17 loss to Oakland that was a winnable game considering the Raiders offense was misfiring for large portions of Week 13.

Had Manning been under center, maybe the Giants win that game.

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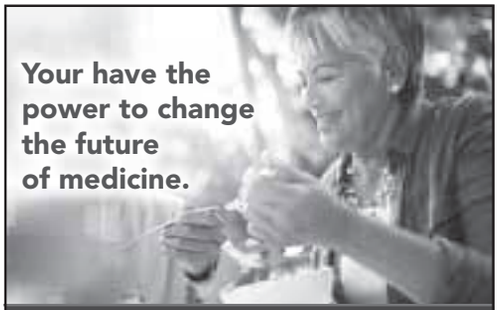

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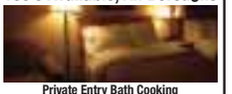

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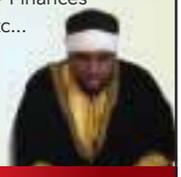

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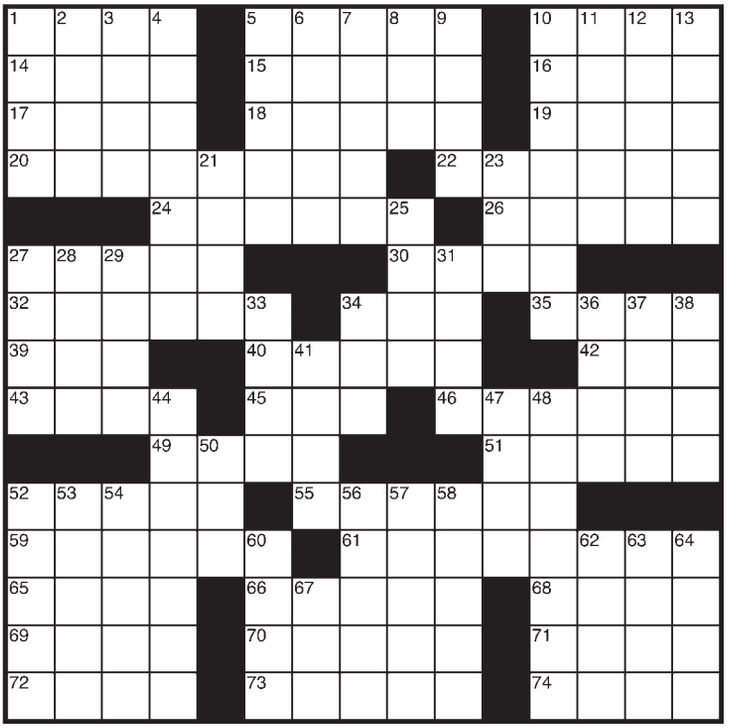
Across

1 Band bookings
5 Orchard pest
10 Blueprint
14 Dreaded czar
15 Good, to Juan
16 Tick off
17 Engineering toy
18 Getting older
19 Kimono sashes
20 Diversified
22 Aftermath
24 Lyrical
26 Wears a crown
27 Chopped down
30 Fodders
32 Battery posts
34 Deposit
35 Arab prince
39 "Road" movie locale
40 Fill with happiness
42 Pollster -- Harris
43 Vortex
45 Combine
46 Lithe
49 Composer -- Satie
51 Fields of study
52 Noble
55 Flammable gas
59 Ogled
61 Climber's starting point (2 wds.)
65 Monstrous giant
66 Concerning
68 Stadium level
69 Chief
70 Florentine poet
71 McClurg or Brickell
72 Malamute's load
73 Take the helm
74 Not admit to

Down

1 Large lizard
2 Famous lithographer
3 Comedian's stock
4 Pried
5 Slacken off
6 Washington waterway
7 Children's classic
8 Country lodging
9 Chief magistrate of Venice
10 Abundant
11 Defame
12 Wonderland girl
13 Snug retreats
21 Took a taxi
23 Cook bacon
25 Informal talk
27 Rabbit kin
28 Oklahoma town
29 Desk material
31 Pro votes
33 Trucker's rig
34 Permissive
36 Fr. miss
37 Small amount
38 Wishes undone
41 Take pleasure in
44 Time for statements (hyph.)
47 Wind indicator
48 Put up
50 Country addr.
52 -- onto (seizes)
53 Queenly
54 Unearthly
56 Steakhouse order (hyph.)
57 -- couture
58 Late summer flower
60 Many parents
62 Helper
63 Fritz's possessive
64 Mouse, to owls
67 Flutter, as eyelashes



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easy

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		6	8		2		3	
3		2				5		
8	9		4		7	3		
	6						5	
		4	3		5		9	2
		7				4		1
	5		9		8	2		
			2				6	

hard

			8	2	3			4
7					1	3	5	8
	8							
	5			8				1
8			4	3	2			7
9				7			8	
							6	
6	9	2	3					5
5			2	6	9			

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Gather information and learn from the encounters and experiences you have dealing with others. Take the lead if you want to get things done your way.

Taurus You may want to help others so do it smartly. Don't let emotional spending lead to a budgetary shortfall. An unusual partnership will provide a learning experience.

Gemini Sort out differences you have with others. Making adjustments to ensure that more money is coming in than is going out will set a good example.

Cancer A discussion with someone you work with or deal with at a government agency or institution will turn emotional. Know your rights and have your paperwork in order.

Leo Don't overspend on your living space. Put more time into self-improvements that don't cost too much or focus on your relationships with your children or parents.

Virgo Trust your emotions. If something doesn't feel right, back away. Don't believe everything you are told or take a risk that could lead to injury or a personal loss.

Libra Make last-minute changes or travel arrangements or plans for end-of-year festivities. A shopping spree will lead to bargains. Meet a friend for lunch and catch up.

Scorpio Make changes at home that will inspire you to enjoy the festive season. An unusual project should be shared with someone you find comforting and supportive.

Sagittarius Partnership issues should be addressed head-on. Be willing to compromise and to do the necessary legwork to bring about positive change.

Capricorn Look for exciting ways to improve how you do your job or handle your money. Keeping up with technology will encourage better results in your everyday routine.

Aquarius Sharing the load will help you get a project done on time and enjoy doing it. Speak up and take action to make a difference.

Pisces An emotional situation will arise if you don't choose your words wisely. Look for unique ways to help others without hurting your bankbook or your health. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

A	L	T	O		C	A	P			R	E	F	S	
R	O	A	D		E	W	E	S		B	U	R	R	O
S	U	M	O		N	E	A	T		E	G	G	E	D
O	P	E	R	A	S		S	A	R	A	S	O	T	A
N	E	D		N	O	M		B	U	C				
			A	T	R	I	A		B	O	B	B	I	N
C	O	N	C	I	E	R	G	E		N	A	O	M	I
L	O	O	T		D	E	A	L	S		S	C	A	B
A	Z	T	E	C		S	I	B	E	R	I	A	N	S
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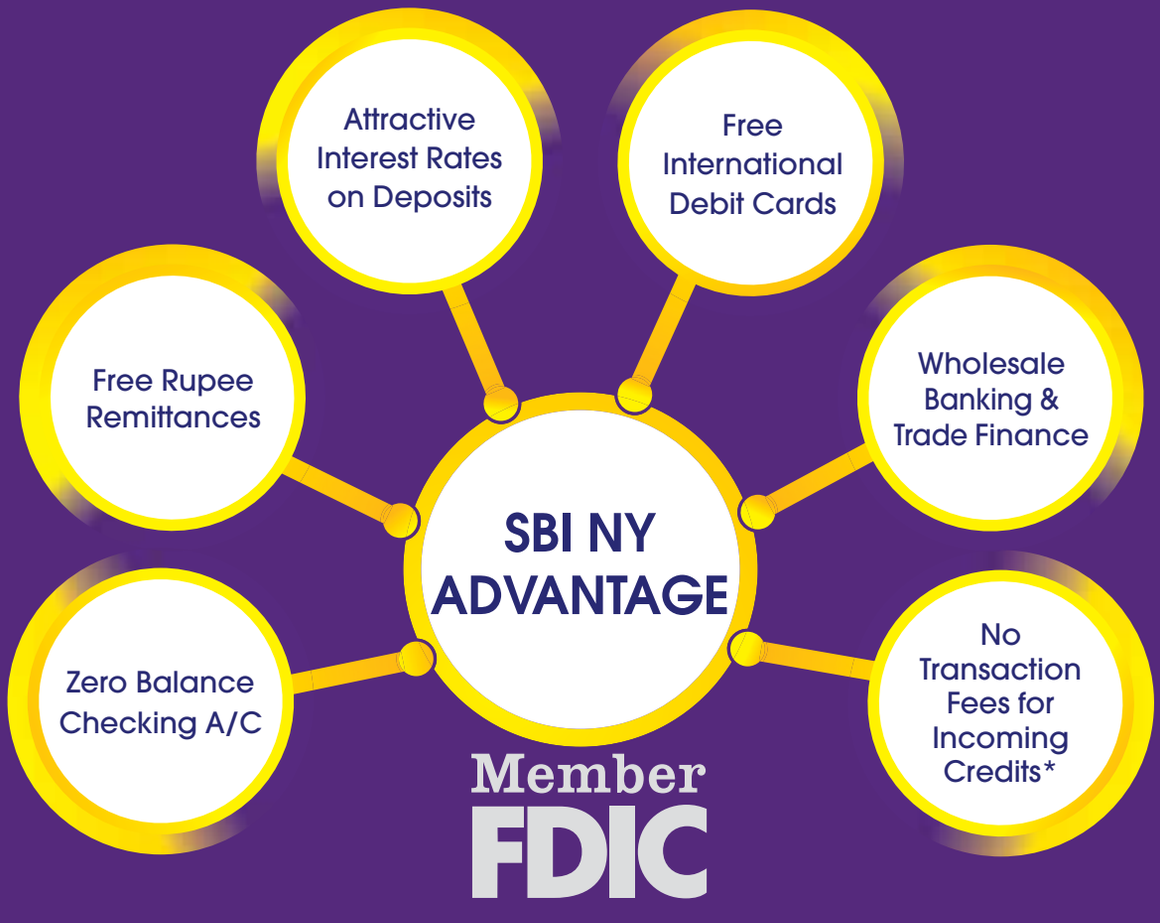
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